

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ): Environmental Enhancement Fund Grant

Q: What is considered an “Enhancement” in the context of this grant program?

A: An enhancement project is a project that acquires habitat for preservation, or improves habitat quality and ecosystem function above baseline conditions, and that meets all of the following requirements:

- 1) Is located within or immediately adjacent to California marine waters, as defined in subdivision (i) of Section 8670.3.
- 2) Has measurable outcomes within a predetermined timeframe.
- 3) Is designed to acquire, restore, or improve habitat or restore ecosystem function, or both, to benefit fish and wildlife.

Q: What locations in California qualify as “marine waters”?

A: “Marine waters” means those waters subject to tidal influence, and includes the waterways used for waterborne commercial vessel traffic to the Port of Sacramento and the Port of Stockton.

Q: Where does the money come from to fund this grant program?

A: Per legislation, money taken in by the California Department of Fish and Game Office of Spill Prevention and Response (DFG-OSPR) for fines and penalties from marine civil oil spill cases and civil administrative actions goes to a fund known as the Environmental Enhancement Fund, which is the source of funds for this grant program.

Q: Who will select the recipients of the grant(s)?

A: A three member committee consisting of the Administrator of the California Department of Fish and Game Office of Spill Prevention and Response (DFG-OSPR), The Executive Director of the California Coastal Conservancy, and a member of the public, designated by the OSPR Administrator, that is an officer of a statewide nonprofit organization whose primary purpose is the protection and/or enhancement of natural resources.

Q: When can we expect to know if our grant proposal was selected for funding?

A: We anticipate notification of grant awards in the February immediately following the application due date. So, if you applied in October of 2011, the notification is anticipated to be in February of 2012.

Q: Who qualifies to apply for this grant?

A: Any nonprofit organizations, cities, counties, districts, state agencies, and departments; and, to the extent permitted by federal law, federal agencies may be awarded funding in an Environmental Enhancement Grant.

Q: Are there any fees associated with this grant?

A: There are no fees associated with applying for or receiving the grant.

Q: How many grants will be awarded?

A: The number of grants to be awarded has not been predetermined.

Q: What are the minimum, maximum, or average dollar amounts of the grants to be awarded?

A: The dollar value(s) of the grants to be awarded have not been predetermined. However, currently this program is restricted in the total annual amount that may be granted, which is \$300,000.

Q: Who can I contact for help or if we have other questions?

A: Bruce Joab, Staff Environmental Scientist at DFG-OSPR, at (916) 322-7561 or send it via e-mail to eefgrant@ospr.dfg.ca.gov.